

# THE DAILY TIMES.

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PAGE McCARTY, - - EDITOR.

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FRIDAY - - - - DECEMBER 24.

We should not be surprised if somebody, we won't say who, should attempt to fix the identity of that "Old Man" on Santa Klaus.

Another occultation of the Presidential policy as bad as that of the recent election occurred when the name of colored statesman Matthews was again sent to the Senate for that District office.

That pickled anecdote about the drunken man who saw an infant pair of twins, and was just sober enough to say that there was only one baby, will not work.

(Under the chestnut tree.)

"Fatty Walsh," just chosen warden of the toms in New York, is a typical ward pot-house politician, and it is said is the result, in his present official position, of the fraternal agreement between the Democratic factions.

The Washington Post makes an able appeal to restore the ancient art of tobacco expectation as a qualification for statesmen, and refers to the plaintive wail of the House committee on the injury to the carpets on account of congressional lack of marksmanship in hitting the spittoon.

McQuade is a victim of the unlucky omen contained in the number 13. He lived at No. 113, and the noted "combine" had 13 members. The boodle franchise was granted on the 13th of the month. He was arrested on the 13th, and there were 13 exceptions made by his counsel. Finally his two names contain just 13 letters.

What the deuce have the coupons to do with the recovery of money as damages for a trespass? The State may choose to say that it was collecting taxes, but the court says it was a man committing trespass, and as the court is carrying out a principle laid down by a higher authority than the State the opinion of the court overrides the theory of the State's position in claiming coupons after refusing them simply because of a verdict against her officers for trespass.

The Treasury Department calls for more vaults to hold the enormous amount of silver coin. There are spacious cellars to the Treasury building, and sometimes an outsider is permitted to gaze on the gorgeous spectacle of a score or two of men shovelling up gold as if it were coal. A tramp once saw this dream of Aladdin's lamp and was so disgusted that he hung himself. But the view of the silver heaps causes a totally different feeling. You want to hang the other man.

"The Randall men," as they are called by the tariff reformers, are holding conferences on a new tariff bill. "The internal revenue tax on tobacco," said Mr. Wilkins, of Ohio, one of the Randall men, to a Post reporter Wednesday, "will probably be entirely abolished. I am opposed to reducing tax on whisky, but on fruit brandies the tax may be reduced and on alcohol for use in the arts. I do not expect there will be a large reduction of import duty on sugar, but I expect a few articles may be put on the free list, such, for instance, as lumber with little or no labor on it." The free importation of certain grades of coarse wool will be allowed by the same schedule.

We apologize to our esteemed friends of the Dispatch for saying that they played the part of the late cock that would never crow until after sunrise, for this time it crows before daybreak, and has taken the moon for the blessed sun just because that pale luminary rises in the same place. Or, to descend from metaphor to plain words, the Dispatch crows over the ruling of Judge Hughes that coupons must be deposited with the court before proceedings can be instituted.

To return from plain words to metaphor, it may be stated that the eclipse of the pale orb of night will be the first thing that will convince our highly-respected cotemporary of the mistake it has made, and then it will begin to view the blessed sun through the smoked glass of its own error.

## THE LAST MURDER.

For 28 years there has not been a Richmond man hung; but because a man from an adjacent county is convicted for bringing a woman here from another county and murdering her, the murder business has been so sensational as to make people think that Richmond is a chamber of horrors. With all respect and kindness to our brethren of the press, this is not news in our profession; it is sensational, and does harm.

## THOSE PLEDGES.

The Alexandria Gazette has the following remarks to make concerning another contradiction in the idea that is being nursed in certain quarters, and it does seem as if in this modern age of business representatives ought to consider the pledge of intelligence to change legislative acts to suit changed circumstances: "The Democratic repudiators in Virginia say the Democratic party of the State must stand by its pledges. But the highest court in the land, the United States Supreme Court, says the people of Virginia, not the Democratic party of the State, must stand by their pledge to accept coupons in payment of taxes; and the result of the war between the States demonstrated the fact that the decisions of that court override not only the platforms of party conventions, but the enactments of State legislatures."

The City Mission provides for the suffering poor, and the people of the city ought to provide for the City Mission.

A very small contribution from all people of average means will help the cause of charity, which, at this season, ought to expand with the joyous ebullition of all good feelings.

"The spice of contraband" is the Irish idea to boom the trustee plan of putting the rents in the hands of intermediate parties. That has the flavor of "poten" to it, and the coercion policy had just as well give up at once.

"Pro Rege et Republica," as an Irish motto has it. For the King and the Republic, both of 'em, begorra!

At the New England dinner in New York, though Sherman, Sheridan, and Talmage spoke, it is stated authoritatively that the speech of the evening was that of Henry Grady on "The New South." The New York Times says that in its four score years the New England society has not heard a speech better worth hearing and thinking about.

Now Washington loses its grip, for the festive statesman is gone, the alleged female lobbyist is non est, and the gay society will not perform in Folly's court until New Year's Day. The enterprising boarding-house keeper has perhaps lost some lodgers on the promise to return, and only the gentleman bummer of the Avenue is left to represent Congress.

Senator Blair's pension bill widens the scope and takes in a large number of new beneficiaries. There is something natural in all this, though demagogism has so great a part in it. A country should reward those who offer their lives on the altar of war, for besides the feeling and the patriotism, it sets the example to future generations to be heroes; but we draw the line at the mother-in-law of the substitute and sutler.

The United Press correspondent at Oskaloosa, Iowa, in describing the fire there yesterday, writes thus: "The whole heaven was illumined by the lurid flames which reached nearly across the street to a lively stable." The young man ought to write a war paper for the Century—Critic.

That is as bad as our able local cotemporary who put on the great Chicago-conflagration colors for the report of that little Cash Corner fire the other night. A man coming South read it on the train at Fredericksburg and thought, until he got to the last line, that Richmond was wiped out by the alleged "fire fiend."

"The Randall men," as they are called by the tariff reformers, are holding conferences on a new tariff bill. "The internal revenue tax on tobacco," said Mr. Wilkins, of Ohio, one of the Randall men, to a Post reporter Wednesday, "will probably be entirely abolished. I am opposed to reducing tax on whisky, but on fruit brandies the tax may be reduced and on alcohol for use in the arts. I do not expect there will be a large reduction of import duty on sugar, but I expect a few articles may be put on the free list, such, for instance, as lumber with little or no labor on it." The free importation of certain grades of coarse wool will be allowed by the same schedule.

The Index-Appeal wickedly quotes the following from an old number of the Dispatch: "Now what would the Mahoneites do in the event supposed? (decision by the Supreme Court that the Riddleberger bill was unconstitutional and void.) Would they attempt to evade the decision of the highest court in the land, or to render it of non effect, or would they bow as becomes good citizens to that decision and endeavor to make provision by law as well for receiving the coupons as for carrying on the State Government?"

But as the Index-Appeal persists in quoting the Dispatch in this manner to make it contradict itself, it ought really to compliment our neighbor on the ability with which it proved the Riddleberger act to be repudiation. The only reason THE TIMES ever quotes the Dispatch in that direction is in a spirit of admiring friendship to remind the public of its ability, just as our highly-esteemed cotemporary, the Whig, recently reviewed its own past history—leaving out the Mahone episode.

The sub-committee of the naval committee, in charge of the appropriation bill—Messrs. Herbert, Sayers and Thomas—met yesterday and began work upon their bill. Chief Clerk of the Navy Department Hogg and Commodore Walker were before them for a short time, explaining the needs of the department. As a rule, committee work is suspended until January. The sub-committees in charge of the deficiency and the legislative appropriation bills have been appointed to sit during the recess and they will probably do some work.

## ALL HAIL.

Hail, Santa Klaus,  
In thy reindeer team!  
Thou still dost seem,  
Spite life's longest pause,  
King of sweet childhood's fairy dream.  
Not age nor realistic laws  
Do mar the gleam  
Of fairy gifts and gay gewgaws.  
Hark, the jingling bells:  
He comes—genius of the Christmastide.  
Our grandmama, she tells,  
How she did take a ride  
In Santa Klaus' sleigh;  
But that, as now, was still the way.  
Jolly old girl! She was a bride  
Sixty years ago.  
If Santa was her beau,  
By Christmas morn he will have shied  
Ten thousand gifts, we know.  
Then let us dream  
Of Santa's reindeer team  
And Christmas snow.

## SPECIAL AND PERSONAL.

Suppose Santa Klaus offers his Christmas gift to the Auditors in coupons, will they require him to have them verified or will they levy on his sleigh and reindeer?

The latest thing in ladies' letter-paper looks as if it had been carried in the vest-pocket a week, then used to light a cigar with, and finally flung into the gutter and been carried off to spend a week in a rats' nest. But it will scarcely answer to be seen without it.—Washington Post.

Connery, of New York, and General Viele may be good candidates for the Turkish mission, but the President ought to maturely consider the merits of the applicants as compared with those of Hon. Sunset Cox, recently resigned. It is acknowledged in the highest diplomatic circles of Europe that Cox is the first man who ever got a joke to succeed on the Sultan, and that the "Light of the Universe," as that potentate is called, said that Cox was the first Western barbarian who could explain to him that Jay Gould was a king and Cleveland only a President. Before that he could not see how a republic could live a day.

## THE FARMER AND THE COUPON.

The impoverished and unproductive lands and the public-school system of Virginia serve to furnish the average Virginia politician with all the argument he requires for his peculiar purposes. He tells the farmer he pays too much tax, except that he must always pay enough to support the public schools, no matter how much they cost. And so the politician tries to please everybody, but especially himself.

Now the "impoverished Virginia farmer" has a right to discriminate in this matter. If he has children to educate, he very naturally and properly considers it his duty to aid in maintaining the public schools; if he has no children he very naturally and properly feels a deeper interest in himself (including his wife, if he has one) than in anybody else, and if he can save fifty per cent, by paying his taxes in coupons, which his own State has agreed to receive in payment of taxes, there is no sound reason why he should not avail himself of the privilege.

But he is told, "If you do that, the taxes will be raised, and you will have so much more to pay." Well, let him keep on using coupons; they are always good as a tender for taxes, however much they may be increased.

But the demagogue next appeals to sentiment, of which he has not a particle himself, and says, "Shame on the Virginian who refuses to stand by the old Commonwealth in the hour of her extremity; pay in money, and scorn the detestable coupon."

But let the "impoverished farmer" ask himself—"Who says all this; what is meant by 'the old Commonwealth'; is she more needy than I am?"

He will easily find out that "the old Commonwealth" means the officials who make her pay every dollar she owes them for salaries, without abating one cent to help her in her distress; and, moreover, that they industriously seek office for the very purpose of making a living out of her poverty.

I submit that the "impoverished farmer" has as much right to help himself by using coupons as the officeholder has to help himself by insisting on the use of money in paying taxes. The officeholder has no idea of helping the old Commonwealth by receiving his salary in coupons and thus retiring so much of her indebtedness; but he has a very determined purpose of making the property-owner pay his taxes in money, because he wants his salary in current funds.

Of course, some one will say, "All this is vile and unpatriotic selfishness." Admit it; it is no worse than the vile and unpatriotic selfishness of the demagogue who makes the objection. What he doesn't know about that kind of selfishness is not worth knowing.

Then, again, some one will say, "This allusion to the State officials is an outrage; they constitute the State Government," etc.

Well, make your argument, both of us however recognizing and insisting upon the necessity of a State Government with a full complement of executive, legislative, and judicial officers. Then we stand on common ground. DALETH.

Richmond, December 20, 1886.

Two men, named Louis Pascal and A. Vincenti, were arrested in Mobile, Ala., charged with robbing E. Pujo of \$4,000 in New Orleans.

## A Family Holocaust.

ASHTABULA, O., December 23.—The home of Caleb Russell, who lived in a few miles of Ashtabula, was totally destroyed by fire this morning. Russell and his wife, an aged couple, died of suffocation, and their son, aged 40, was burned to a crisp.

## Instantly Killed.

LYNCHBURG, VA., December 23.—John Purvis, a colored man, was run over and instantly killed by the yard engine at Potomac to-day.

## For Alleged Discrimination.

COLUMBUS, December 23.—Proceedings in quo warranto were instituted in the Supreme Court to-day on behalf of parties in Marietta, Ohio, against the Cincinnati, Washington and Baltimore and the Cincinnati, New Orleans and Texas Pacific railways and their connecting lines, alleging discrimination in the matter of the shipment of refined oils in favor of the Standard Oil Company, of Cleveland.

## THE FISHING GROUNDS.

SOMETHING ABOUT THE INDUSTRY OF THE NEW ENGLAND COAST.

The Dangers, Profits and Losses of the Hazardous Business—How the Boats Go Out and Set Their Lines—A Trip's Catches.

During his leisure hours your correspondent has several times visited the T, or fish wharf, in this city, and been much interested in viewing its curious scenes and gathering some items concerning the fishery business. Over a score of firms engaged in the trade are located on this long wharf, and in the docks on either side may be seen almost any day twice as many fishing schooners, their numerous masts reminding you of a deadened pine forest. Perhaps 500 fishermen and dealers may be seen on the wharf and vessels, and the scene is a busy, curious and entertaining one.

From some of the vessels the finny captives are being taken, large basketfuls being elevated from the hold to the wharf by block and tackle. They are dumped into boxes, placed on portable scales, weighed, and then pitched into the cart or wagons of the purchaser and drawn away to his store, there to be washed and fitted for the retail market, shipped to inland towns, or salted down, as the case may be. In handling the fish ordinary hay forks with three tines are employed, and they are forked into the baskets, and then from the boxes into the carts. They are too slim to be handled conveniently in any other way.

## THE FISHING SCHOONERS.

The schooners are of various sizes, the smaller ones going only to what is known as the in-shore fishing grounds near the coast. The larger ones, which go to the off-shore fisheries, are generally from eighty to ninety tons burden, and carry heavy stone ballast, well secured in the bottom so that it cannot shift during severe storms. Each vessel carries eight small boats called dories, and the crew consists of the skipper, cook and sixteen fishermen.

The vessels hail from Portland, Portsmouth, Gloucester, Provincetown, Boston and other ports, but, perhaps, most largely from Gloucester. The fishing grounds extend from Rhode Island on the south to the shores of Newfoundland on the north. The favorite grounds of the Gloucester fishermen are the George's banks, about 130 miles east of that port. The fish are usually caught in about thirty fathoms of water, but sometimes halibut are taken at a depth of 300 fathoms. The bait used is largely small herring, and the fish caught in the various seasons are cod, haddock, mackerel, pollock, hake, halibut, etc. The time required for a trip is ordinarily from four days to a week.

When the fishing grounds are reached the sails are reefed, and as the vessel glides along the dories are let down by pulleys into the water, one after another, at a distance of about one-eighth of a mile apart. Each dory has two men, who are provided with four tubs of trawls, anchors of about twenty pounds weight, buoys etc. Each tub of trawls has about 500 hooks, making the entire number to each dory about 2,000. While the bowman rows slowly along the sternman puts out the trawls, fastening the ends to an anchor which is cast out, a line to it being retained on the dory tied to a buoy. After the lines have been set sometimes the skipper signals from the schooner for them to be taken up. The anchor is raised and the lines are drawn in over a roller, and as this is done the fish are taken off the hooks—one fish to fifty hooks being considered a fair catch. The dory is then rowed to the schooner, or the latter comes back over the line and takes them up. This process is repeated several times each day, and sometimes the trawls are set over night, the vessel lying to.

## CATCHES OF A TRIP.

In the evening the fish are eviscerated and packed away with ice in the compartments of the hold and things set in order for the following day. If, however, the catch has not been good, the anchor is weighed and the vessel sails on, hoping to find better grounds. Thus they continue from day to day until they get a lead or trip, when they return to port. The catches of a trip vary from 25,000 to 100,000 pounds, the average being 50,000. The average price obtained for the fish during the year is about two cents per pound, but they are often sold at less than one cent, and as high as five. The fishermen are not paid fixed wages, but share in the profits of the trip, whatever they may be. After all the expenses are paid, usually about \$150, the owners of the vessel get one-fourth and the crew three-fourths.

The business is a hazardous one and is attended with great loss of life. One of the men remarked: "We know when we go out, but don't know when we'll get back, if ever." The losses from Gloucester this season have been six vessels and about 125 men. Three winters ago there were 19 vessels and 257 men lost, leaving a large number of widows and orphans. Rough seas are often encountered on these trips, when deep waves break over the vessel, and she is scarcely able to ride the storm. One sailor said he had seen her "hove down" before the gale until she was almost on her side, and only the heavy ballast made her right herself. In winter time the deck and rigging are often covered with ice and the Rapid Transit has come into port covered with as much as twenty tons. To run up the hatchway between waves, and then close it and hold to the ropes while a great wave breaks over the vessel, or to climb the ice covered rigging and reef the frozen sails, are neither of them tasks to be coveted.

This business, thus hazardous, is not one in which many fortunes are made. The best that can be said of it is that it affords a tolerably fair means of obtaining a livelihood. The fishermen during some hard voyage often declare they will never ship again, but they soon forget their hardships again, and few who become injured to the business ever leave it.—Boston Cor. Cleveland Leader.

## Sinuous Sayings About the Sleeper.

A sleeper is one who sleeps. A sleeper is that in which the sleeper sleeps. A sleeper is that on which the sleeper which carries the sleeper while he sleeps runs. Therefore, while the sleeper sleeps in the sleeper, the sleeper carries the sleeper over the sleeper and wakes the sleeper in the sleeper, by striking the sleeper under the sleeper, and there is no longer any sleeper sleeping in the sleeper on the sleeper.—San Diego Union.

## Pretty Present for a Bride.

A St. Louis clergyman devised a pretty present for a bride whose marriage service he read the other day. He wrote out the words of the ceremony in a pretty little volume in which the marriage certificate was bound, with the autographs of the bride, bridesmaids, the best man and the ushers.—Chicago Herald.

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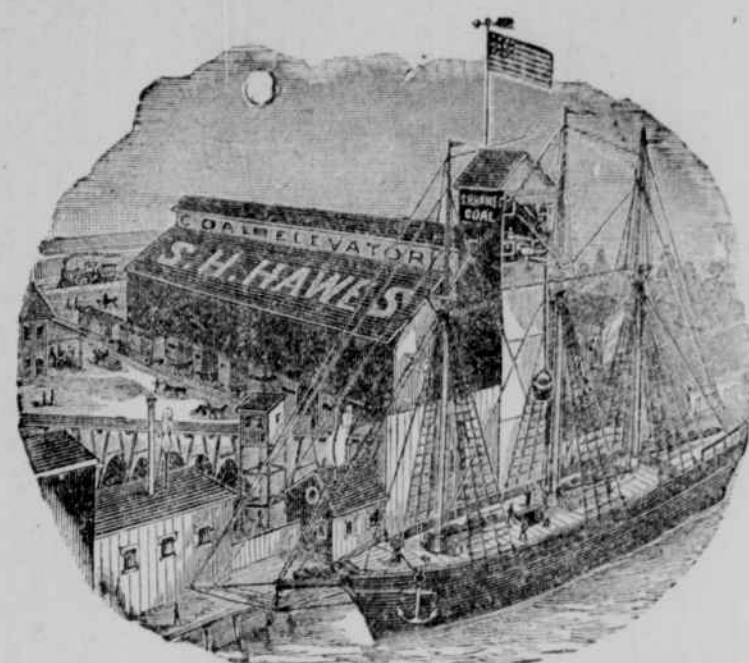
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## The Virginia State Debt.

To the People of Virginia:

At a meeting of Virginia Bondholders, convened by the Council of Foreign Bondholders, and held on Friday, the 23rd of September, 1886, at the Cannon-street Hotel, London, the following resolutions were passed unanimously:

"That this meeting deplores the long contest into which the bondholders have been forced for the maintenance of their rights, and, while asserting its steadfast determination not to accept the Riddleberger settlement, which, in view of the admitted ability of Virginia to settle with her creditors, and the sacrifices they have already made on her behalf, it considers dishonest and unjust, hereby expresses its willingness to meet the State and entertain a reasonable compromise based upon the present taxation and the available revenue, after providing for the Constitutional appropriation for government, schools, and other public expenditures."

The State had the benefit of the whole of the money she originally borrowed (\$34,000,000). It laid the foundation of her roads, railroads, and canals, and has brought millions of dollars into the country. Had you not constructed these public works with the bondholders' money you would have to be taxed now for them.

No State which borrowed money ever enjoyed the benefit of its loans more than Virginia has done. (See Senate Document XXIV, Session, 1877-78.)

The present unsettled condition of the debt is keeping capital and emigration out of Virginia, and as long as matters so continue you will never develop the splendid resources of the State in the way they deserve.

The revenue of Virginia is increasing. The last assessment shows an increase of \$5,000,000 in taxable values. Your present revenue might be largely increased if the taxes were more carefully collected and the present assessments on property equalized throughout the State.

What might have been difficult to do a few years ago is easy now, and each year the burden will become lighter. When the debt question is settled capital and enterprise, which now holds aloof, will flow into the State. The settlement offered by the bondholders proposes that the bonds now in existence bearing tax-receivable coupons should be deposited in some trust company; that new bonds should be issued in their place, bearing no tax-receivable coupons, and at a low rate of interest. When the State pays a half-year's interest on the new bonds, the tax-receivable coupons for that half-year shall be cut off the old bonds, by the trust company, cancelled, and delivered to the State. Any increase on the present revenue will be appropriated by the State, and the bondholders will not have any claim on it. There was a cash balance of \$1,000,000 in the Treasury of \$35,000, and the average purchase of Riddleberger's by the State has been at the rate of \$600,000 per annum in cash. The State has some millions of dollars of assets which would help her in arranging a settlement.

The bondholders are as deeply interested as you are in maintaining the credit and prosperity of your State. They ask for a fair hearing and a discussion of the question by business men, and not by politicians, whose interest it is to prevent an understanding being arrived at and an honorable compromise being made. The best way of bringing about this settlement is for taxpayers to tender coupons in payment of their taxes. In view of the conciliatory spirit and liberal offer made by the creditors, I venture respectfully to submit to you that it is your moral duty, as well as your legal right and privilege, to tender coupons for taxes now due.

JAMES P. COOPER.

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